

The Government Astronomer reports to-day:—The barometer is slowly falling over Luzon and has risen elsewhere, except in Wladivostok. Light winds prevail every where at present. The typhoon forecast by me on the 19th has entered and is quickly traversing the sea of Japan, and that forecast on the 23rd appears to be still East of Luzon, which it is slowly approaching.

We have to acknowledge receipt of part 4 of the Netherlands Minister's (Mr. J. H. Ferguson's) *Manual of International Law*, for the use of Navies, Colonies and Consulates. The part before us deals with the 'Mutual rights and responsibilities of states in time of peace.' Part 5 will be on 'War and its consequences,' and should be of special value, if it is published before the Franco-Chinese trouble is concluded. The publishers here are Messrs. Noronha & Co.

This following telegram from the *St. Paul Times* varies somewhat from the corresponding one published here:—

London, Sept. 18.—Telegrams have been received from General Gordon up to 26th August, announcing that he would occupy Berber within a few days, and then await the arrival of British troops.

He again asks for Zohreh Pasha to be despatched; also for £300,000 to be sent him.

Another rifle competition, between the members of the Police force in course of arrangement, and will probably take place early next month. There are to be fifteen prizes to be competed for, and Captain Dempster, Captain Superintendent of the force, has most liberally subscribed \$101 towards the amount of the prizes. The weapon used will be the Martini-Henry carbine, and the ranges 200, 300 and 400 yards.

IMPORTANT military operations are to be undertaken by the French in Tonquin in a month or two. The relief and reinforcements will mostly all have arrived by the end of next month, and by that time active operations will have commenced.

Among the earliest movements to be made, we believe, is the despatch of four distinct columns of troops from Hanoi. Three of these are to proceed to the Chinese frontier. One column will, it is possible, comprise Langon, another Cao Bang, and a third, Lao Kai. The columns for Langon and Cao Bang will very possibly move in company as far as Langon, from which there is a road to Cao Bang. The road from Langon runs in a North Easterly direction from Hanoi, and the route from Langon to Cao Bang runs in a Westerly direction. In addition to the certainty of these columns encountering a strong force of Chinese, there will be immense difficulties to be overcome in transporting stores, and in keeping open the lines of communication. Their task will, therefore, be a severe and dangerous one.

The column to Lao Kai will have to proceed up the Red River in boats. Lao Kai is situated on the North Western frontier of Tonquin, on the Red River, which is navigable as far as Sonay by small gunboats. Beyond that it is navigable by boats of light draft as far as Lao Kai, but there are several rather dangerous rapids to be overcome on the way.

The last column will proceed South to Than Hoa, the place where nine French prisoners were massacred some time ago.

THE STEAMER *Glenage* and *Namoo* arrived here from Foochow to-day. The former left the Anchorage on the 24th, and the latter on the 21st. Nothing had been heard of the reported landing of 2,000 French troops at the Kimpai Pass on the 16th instant, when these vessels left the Anchorage, and as they steamed through the Passes (the Mangan and Kimpai), the officers observed the Chinese were still hard at work on the fortifications. During the three days the *Namoo* lay at the Anchorage, an immense number of Chinese soldiers passed down the river towards the Mangan and Kimpai Passes in junk. Captain Leo Baah, who saved himself and his crew from the attack of the French, by acting on the principle of 'He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day,' was still on board his vessel, but was momentarily expecting to be surrounded to have his head removed. The river is not yet blocked for gunboats. When the *Namoo* left, the *Zephyr* and *Moscow* were still at Foochow, the *Champion* was at the Anchorage, and the *Merle* was at Sharp Point. Eight French men-of-war were under French Island, and it is said the troops brought up in the *Legation* are encamped on that island.

The *Legation* passed *La Galissoniere*, bound north, off the Brothers yesterday. As will be seen from the following report, the *Namoo* was compelled to remain under shelter at Sharp Point for two days. She reports:—Left Pagoda Anchorage on the morning of the 21st instant, and anchored under Sharp Point, the weather being misty and the barometer falling. At 6 p.m., barometer 30.16, the wind increased to a hard gale with heavy squalls and rain. Lay under Sharp Point until the morning of the 23rd instant, when the weather moderating, proceeded on our voyage to Amoy. The lowest reading of the barometer was 29.56. During the time we lay at anchor the wind changed from the N.E. to N.W. The S.S. *Fuku* and *Akita* were seen at Sharp Point during the

gale, and also left on the morning of the 23rd.

The steamers *Rosely*, *Douglas*, and *Agamemnon* were passed at No. 2 Buoy, bound into Foochow, on the morning of the 23rd instant.

H.B.M.'s gunboat *Midge* was passed on the evening of the 23rd instant, bound for Foochow.

THE S.S. *Haveron*, Captain Aubin, leaves Nagasaki for Europe to-morrow (Sept. 14th) with 3,500 tons of rice on board, the largest cargo of grain hitherto shipped from this port, we believe.—Nagasaki *Rising Sun*.

DISCUSSION sometimes arises now-a-days, as to the value of the 'Esquire.' It is generally agreed that its use should not, if possible, be allowed to any gentleman worth, say, less than ten shillings a week, unless he be an office-boy or otherwise 'professionally' engaged. It has, however, been reserved for the Press to fix the exact worth of the title. A journal published in the town of Burnham, a small but popular resort on the Somersetshire coast, has the following note at the head of its 'List of Visitors':—

'The word "Esq." charged 3d. prepaid.'

M. BERNARD, the inventor of the navigable balloon, has informed a reporter of the *Esquire* (Paris) that the problem of directing the machine is completely mastered. It is only a question of time and money, and he has no doubt the necessary means would be found. A machine would only take six months to make, and thus an aerial army of the utmost usefulness could be created, though the expense would certainly be very great. During the siege balloons had been sent out with messages. This system could enable them to return with replies, and a regular postal service could be established between Paris and Bordeaux or anywhere else as easily as by railroad. The balloon besides could be made a formidable engine of war. Its carrying power increases rapidly in proportion to its size, and thus it might be made to convey bodies of a hundred soldiers or more.

SAYS the Nagasaki *Rising Sun* of Sept. 13th:—The Chinese barge *Ching Teh*, Capt. F. Taylor, was towed below the shipping at noon on Wednesday last, and some time during the ensuing night she sailed for Shanghai, with a full cargo of coal on board. The *Ching Teh*, it is generally known, is, to all intents and purposes, a government vessel, attached to the Shanghai Arsenal, at which place she was constructed, having been originally intended for a steamer to collect 'tribute' from the Chinese. We believe there is no reason to suspect the *Ching Teh* has not really gone to Shanghai, except that it seems altogether incredible that the Chinese authorities should risk a valuable vessel and cargo unless their requirement for coal was of a most urgent nature, which can scarcely be the case at Shanghai. The *Ching Teh* arrived here on the 29th of July, and as war was daily expected to be declared when she left Shanghai, it was generally believed that she was sent here solely to ensure her safety, and that she would remain until matters became more settled, instead of which the first opportunity has been taken to expose her to the danger of capture and confiscation by one of the numerous French men-of-war cruising in the vicinity of Shanghai and adjacent ports.

Victoria Recreation Club.

AQUATIC SPORTS.

Umpires:—H. J. H. Tripp, Esq.; C. S. Goodwyn, Esq.; F. Grimble, Esq.; E. E. Raynall, Esq.; 'The Bull.' Starter:—R. K. Leigh, Esq.

The annual aquatic sports of the Victoria Recreation Club were commenced this afternoon in splendid weather. There was a large attendance of the public. The competitions were keenly contested, and afforded the spectators much entertainment. Below we give a description and the result of each race:

1.—4.00 p.m., DIVING FOR OBJECTS; 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Five competitors appeared, Read, Wilson, Barff, Shepherd and Williams, one dive each only being allowed. The sun was shining rather strongly upon the water and made a glare which rendered it very difficult to discern the small cups which were the objects dived for. Ten of these objects were thrown in the water for each competitor, at different points in the bath. Read, after being under water 36 seconds, only succeeded in bringing up one of the objects, Wilson obtained three, Shepherd six, and Barff and Williams four each. The two last named dived again to decide the tie, for second place, Barff getting four to Williams' one, thus securing the second prize.

Shepherd, 1st prize, value \$10.

2.—4.15 p.m., RUNNING HEADS FROM CHINESE BOARD; 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Wilson, G. Grimble, Machado, Williams and Cornish competed for this event, the heads being taken into deep water outside the bath. Three tries each were allowed. G. Grimble made by far the best head, in his third attempt, Machado being the next best. Several of the divers turned over and fell rather awkwardly. The difference in points of excellence in first and second was 43 and 33.

G. Grimble, 1st prize, value \$10.

3.—4.31 p.m., BOAT RACE (2 lengths); (Handicap); 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Entries:—Cook (15 seconds), Stapani (14 seconds), G. Lammer (10 seconds), Alden, Joseph and Kew (8 seconds), Almada (4 seconds), Costa (2 seconds), De Mello (scratch).

The boys put great spirit and vigour into their swimming. The smallest man in the squad, Stapani, swam with great pluck and was the first to touch the boards at the first length. De Mello was the second,

followed closely by Almada. Stapani continued to swim with great spirit, but De Mello, the tallest and most muscular lad, came in first with comparative ease. Almada was a good second, Costa a good third and Stapani an excellent fourth. De Mello's time was 1 min. 41 sec.

De Mello, 1st prize, value \$10.

4.—4.45 p.m., SHORT RACE (2 lengths); (Open); 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Entries:—S. Barff, Captain Barclay, G. Grimble, H. Arthur and J. Williams.

Barff, the winner of the same race the two previous seasons, soon asserted himself, and maintained a short lead all through. He was sorely pressed the whole way through by Grimble (who bids fair to equal the performance of his brother, F. Grimble, in years gone by) and Captain Barclay. Barff reached the goal about a quarter of a length ahead of Grimble, and there was about the same distance between Grimble and Captain Barclay. Arthur and Williams were almost neck and neck in fourth place, not far behind the leaders. Altogether the race was a well contested and spirited one. Time 59½ seconds.

S. Barff, 1st prize, value \$10.

5.—5.15 p.m., HEADS FROM STAGE; 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Only three competitors stripped for the high dive, Grimble, Machado and Wilson. Each had three dives, the prize being given to the best diver on the three attempts. Wilson, whose legs went over rather far in the first plunge, retired, and left the event to be contested by Grimble and Machado. The former made three really splendid plunges, entering the water cleanly and with very little splash and recovering himself in good time. Machado dived very fairly but made considerably more splash, though his recovery was very rapid. As only three competed, no second prize was given.

G. Grimble, 1st prize, value \$10.

6.—5.30, LONG RACE (Round the Red Buoy and back); (Handicap); 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Entries:—O. A. Cornish, A. Reuter and C. Denkle (Scratch), W. Wilson (15 sec), and J. Williams (25 seconds).

The conditions were that the swimmers should go round the Red Buoy and back, but instead of this they were required to go round a boat moored off the inside of the British gunboat *Linnat*, anchored about 200 yards from the shore. There was considerable confusion in the starting. Reuter (scratch) started immediately after Williams (25 seconds), and Denkle (also scratch) went off almost simultaneously with Wilson (15 seconds). Williams went off at the word, and had a beautiful start, but he entirely swamped his advantage by swimming too much against the tide. He lost all the way out, easily, but he lost all he had gained in getting westwards towards the boat. Cornish, the only man who really started scratch, was a good way behind the others until the boat had been rounded, but immediately after he did so he took the leading position and maintained it until within twenty yards from home, when he gave way to Denkle, who touched the goal first. Denkle, however, had to allow ten seconds to Cornish, who reached the steps second, five seconds after Denkle. Cornish was thus the winner by five seconds. His time was 7 mins. 19 sec. Williams pulled up gradually towards the end, and touched the steps within one second of Cornish. Wilson was fourth man. Reuter was never in the race.

O. A. Cornish, 1st prize, value \$10.

7.—6.00 p.m., HURDLE RACE (Handicap); 1st prize, value \$10; 2nd prize, value \$5.

Entries:—Captain Barclay and G. Grimble (scratch), H. Arthur (5 sec), Machado (8 sec) and H. Read (10 sec).

The struggle in this race lay between Arthur and Grimble. Arthur finished the first length just barely half-a-length ahead of Grimble, and from that point until the close of the race there was a stiff and determined competition between the two youngest entrants. The struggle ended in favour of Grimble, whose style both in swimming and getting over the hurdles was the neatest, by a short length. The winner's time was 74 seconds. Capt. Barclay finished the race, but Read and Machado gave up the contest on reaching the first hurdle on the return journey.

G. Grimble, 1st prize, value \$10.

8.—6.15 p.m., DUCK HUNT; prize, value \$10.

This was the comic event in the afternoon's sport, and produced an immense amount of amusement and fun amongst the spectators. Six small Chinese punts were each manned with two of the competitors, one of whom worked the paddle whilst the other, stationed in the bows, had to defend the boat from the attempts of the duck to upset it. One of the rules was that no one should carry his head in the punt so far as to 'hit the duck on the head with the paddle.' The object of the duck, who was in the water, and not in a boat, was to overturn the little punts within 10 minutes.

Mr. F. Grimble assumed the unenviable role of the duck. The six punts were manned by Stapani and Barff; Barclay and Pike; Wilson and Schindler; Read and Oakwell; Machado and Arthur; and

Grimble and Shepherd. In a very short time the duck succeeded in upsetting or swamping several of the punts, leaving the crews floundering in the water, or hanging on to the overturned boats. Some of the hunters, after being unhipped themselves, acted as amateur ducks and assisted in bringing their more fortunate fellow sportsmen to grief. Each successive upset was greeted with roars of laughter and shouts of applause, and in six minutes from the opening of the ball all the punts were overturned or swamped and their crews in the water; the duck thus winning the prize with four minutes to the good.

This brought the afternoon's sports to a close. They will be continued to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Police Intelligence.

(Before A. G. Wise, Esq.) Friday, Sept. 26.

REFUSAL TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT.

The mistresses of licensed cargo boats Nos. 945, 645 and 603, appeared on a summons charging them with unlawfully refusing, without sufficient cause, to accept employment when unemployed, on the 25th inst.

Mr. Francis Vincent stated that yesterday at 9 a.m. he had some cattle to send on board a French man-of-war, from off the *Crays* upon his way. He tried to engage the defendants' boats to take the cattle off, but they all refused and left the wharf, saying they were afraid to take complainant's cargo.

The first defendant now stated that their boat was too small, the second and third said that they were engaged at the time, but failed to prove this.

A constable was sent to see the first defendant's boat, and reported that it was only capable of safely carrying two beasts. Complainant had wanted to ship four; the first defendant was therefore discharged. The other two defendants were fined \$5 each.

CHARGE AGAINST A CHINESE NEWSPAPER.

Tam Yik-kin, the printer and publisher of the *Wai Tin Yat-Po*, appeared on a summons charging him with 'unlawfully counselling and endeavouring to persuade others to commit a crime, to-wit: the 17th day of September, 1894, subscribers or readers of the said newspaper, to commit the crime of murder, contrary to section IV. of Ordinance No. 4 of 1865.

A justice, crown solicitor, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Wotton for defendant.

Mr. Wotton asked to be supplied with a copy of the objectionable publication, and stated that he understood that the matter referred to was a copy of a proclamation issued by the Chinese Government at Canton.

No evidence was taken, and the case was remanded until Monday next, at 10 a.m. Bail was granted to defendant in two sureties of \$100 each.

AN ATTEMPT AT HOUSEBREAKING.

A hawker named Ho, Acheung, was charged with being upon the roof of the house of one Shing Fung, a student, in the night time, with intent to commit a felony; also with being in possession of burglars' weapons, on the night of the 26th inst.

Wong Chin, P. O. 283, board cries of 'thief' at 12.30 a.m. in 'Wing' Street, and saw defendant on the roof of No. 7. When defendant saw the constable he jumped down and hurt his foot, but managed to run into a house and shut the door. The constable then admitted the constable, who found the defendant at the foot of the stairs. The constable found a chair and pin where the defendant was standing.

The defendant admitted being on the roof, but disclaimed the ownership of the instruments. He also admitted three previous convictions, and was now sentenced to six months' hard labour, the first and last fourteen days to be in solitary confinement.

FOOCHOW.

(From our Correspondent.) 17th Sept. 1894.

Since the attack of the French, the natives here appear to have lost what few senses they possessed, and are acting in the most extraordinary and erratic manner. As an illustration of this, I may state that whilst a large junk was proceeding down river yesterday, she was fired upon and sank at Limpo; and with what view it is difficult to conceive. The hypothesis, however, is that the sinking of the vessel was considered to be an additional barrier to the French fleet, which is daily expected to return to bombard the City. The natives are most active in re-constructing their forts, and are offering fabulous prices for the procuring of guns of foreign manufacture.

A few merchants here, who find that trade is scarcely so brisk as formerly, appear to be sadly lamenting their inability to supply this demand.

The reason now assigned by the Chinese for their utter defeat, is that the French did not give their fair warning of their contemplated attack; otherwise the result would have been very different.

Every preparation is again being made to encounter the French fleet, and the remuneration offered to even coolies to enlist in the army is for them very large; but the natives are too well aware that when they receive their wages, the amount has dwindled considerably down, owing to the squabbles made by Chinese officials who are chiefly dependent upon this for their means of existence and it is therefore a most difficult matter to obtain recruits.

The general impression amongst the Chinese is that the French fleet will return on Sunday next, the 23rd, to bombard the City, and every arrangement is being made for an etouffé.

A very serious affray has just taken place between the inhabitants of two villages called Dandow and Panshing which arose through a dispute about land; the result being the loss of several lives. The settlement is comparatively quiet, but it would be dangerous to venture into the City, as the natives continue in great excitement, and row vengeance against foreigners generally.

England's Agreement to Protect Chusan.

(Translated from the 'Shen-pao' of 8th September, 1894.)

The following translation of a somewhat remarkable article in the *Shen-pao* has been forwarded to us:—

Chusan is a small barren island only visited by traders in fish and salt, amongst whom are no wealthy merchants, owing to the smallness of its trade. Its coast line being indented with frequent bays and inlets, the island is open on all sides to an enemy and difficult to hold. Consequently China does not regard this place as so important as Taiwan (Formosa) or Kiungchow (Hainan).

When the British first came to the east they occupied Chusan before they obtained possession of Hongkong as a place of commerce, and they agreed with China that, if the Chinese Government would engage not to hand over Chusan to any other power, they would on their part guarantee its protection without calling upon China to pay the expenses of its occupation. The reason of this is easy to see. Chusan is in a very central position, being situated between the northern and southern seas, in the highway between Hongkong and Shanghai, and near the mouth of Yangtze river, and if it were taken by any nation, it would attract the whole foreign trade of the Empire, and utterly ruin that of Hongkong. England therefore engaged to protect it in order to prevent its being so appropriated, for, in case of any trouble in Chusan, she has only to produce this convention as a warrant for her interference, and no nation can say that her action is a breach of neutrality.

Though regarded by China as unimportant, the protection of this island is of vital importance to England, and her vested interests.

Now France has taken Amoy and is embroiled with China, and, according to the London papers of the 4th January, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce telegraphed to the London Chamber to request the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to uphold the Convention of 1846, which provides for the protection of Chusan, and that the island shall not be given up to any other nation. The reply of the Secretary was to the effect that the Treaty provisions would be observed.

They are all at one on this point, and the merchants of England and China also approve. England has this advantage over other nations that her Sovereign and her people are of one mind in upholding the prosperity of the nation, and therefore it is that England holds the chief place among European states.

Now a correspondent just arrived from Hongkong states that England dreads the power of France, and that it is not certain that she will guarantee the protection of Chusan, and on this account the Hongkong merchants are much concerned.

There is a rule observed throughout the world that, when new treaties are entered into by two countries, the provisions of former treaties still continue in force unless the new treaty specially annuls them. Now the Treaty of Peking between England and China did not annul the agreement to protect Chusan; and, if we believe that that protection, we must believe that it does not wish to be on friendly terms with China, and is willing to give up its interests here. Or is it that England fears that her action in guarding Chusan will raise bitter feelings against her in France? Or has France threatened to fight if she does anything that will interfere with the payment of the treaty stipulations? If England is willing to give up its interests here, it certainly repents it. Of late years she has contented herself with holding what she has already got, and has adopted a laissez-faire policy. If she does not hold to her treaty stipulations by protecting Chusan, she is giving up her rights here, and France may step in, and the result will be a waiting in backbones. France will soon observe her weakness, as will all other nations, and will take advantage of it to press her in every way, making her the protected whereby she may raise herself to prominence among European states. This is what is sure to happen.

Great Britain holds nine-tenths of the trade with China, while all other nations of the east and west have only one-tenth among them. These French men-of-war have been attacking the open ports, China has had to put herself into a position of defence—trade has been interfered with, and England has suffered to the extent of several tens of millions of pounds, yet she has not dared to utter her voice. She has kept neutral while her interests are all being lost to her; though it is not yet known when the loss will end, nor to what extent it may extend. The fighting at Keelung and Amoy has been conducted by the French with excessive severity, and China has therefore seized this opportunity to pour her troops from Keelung and Amoy into Tientsin. Tientsin, Shantung, and Peking are all in a state of alarm. The French are now in a position to take away from England the profits according to the China trade. France is openly disturbing China, but indirectly the injury falls on England. The indemnity which France demands is \$4,000,000 francs, but China will not pay it. England's loss, we fear, will be much more than this, and yet she willingly gives in, thus laying herself out to the ridicule of France, and lowering herself in the eyes of Europe. How is it that France is so strong and England so weak? or why should France dare attack wisdom and England be so foolish? Nor is this all; for if England refuses to protect Chusan, by the Chinese will offer it as a market to some other nation whose trade is to their mutual advantage, and England will not

have anything to say. She will have to keep quiet and see her trade gradually diminish until her once flourishing colony in Hongkong becomes a deserted island, unless in some way she can be rescued. If on the other hand England holds to her treaty and sends a couple of gunboats to Chusan, France will relinquish all designs against Tientsin. Being already engaged in hostilities with China she will not dare to raise another enemy against her. King-hai can be efficiently protected by one or two men-of-war, and that does not British trade will be in no ultimate danger. England's good faith and uprightness will become manifest, her pledges will not be broken, her merchants will be deeply grateful, and her good name will remain unimpaired. She will not need to be ashamed to be called the greatest of the great European powers.

We know that the British Government is extremely fascinated in its policy and skilful in the management of its country's affairs. But our words are not mere water without stability. England should consider her trade interests and no longer remain neutral. If after but utter a word to the British Foreign Office, the understanding between France and China, none can say that it is not her business, or deny her right to interfere, and this fresh complication will compel France to draw in her horns, and calm her turbulent overbearing disposition. There is not a moment to be lost and a single false step may bring ruin in its train; it depends upon England's action. Considering the importance of Chusan to foreign trade, England's protection of it would be as much to her own interest as to that of China. The convention by which she entered into this engagement was made by her own statement for her own advantage, and displays a wise and far-sighted policy.

The article of the Convention of 1846, in which this engagement was entered into, is copied below for the information of our readers.

4th Article.—Her Britannic Majesty consents on her part in case of the attack of an invader to protect Chusan and its dependencies and to restore to the possession of China as of old, the island of Chusan, and proceeds from the friendly alliance between the two nations, no pecuniary subsidies are to be due from China on this account.

The London and China Express of the 4th January, 1894, states that the London Chamber of Commerce had received a telegram from the Hongkong Chamber, asking them to request the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to uphold the Treaty of 1846, which provides for the protection of Chusan, and that the island should not be given up to any other nation. The London Chamber accordingly memorialized the Foreign Office urging the observance of this Convention.

Arrival of the crew of the 'Nisero' at Penang.

The *Penang Gazette* of the 16th September has the following:—

H. M. S. *Pegasus* arrived in the Harbour on Sunday morning with the Hon. W. E. Maxwell, on board, and the eighteen survivors of the crew of the *Nisero*, accompanying him, the men having been released by the *Rajah* of Tenom on this payment of the 'spot' of \$40,000, which sum was handed over when the men were brought down to the place where the *Pegasus* lay.

The men were, immediately on landing, conducted to the Government offices where His Excellency was in waiting to receive them.

First, the Mate (Mr. Wright) and then each of the men were introduced by Mr. Maxwell to His Excellency, who heartily shook hands with each of them and expressed his very great pleasure in seeing them here and bidding them welcome to Penang.

The men then continuing standing up, the Governor, in the course of his conversation with Mr. Wright, the Mate, ascertained from him that for a good time at first they felt the confinement very severely and acutely. They were generally pretty fairly provided with food, but after a short time a short time in the *Nisero* hands, the salt ran short, and they had nothing but the cooked rice, pure and simple. They grumbled a great deal at this, for the good reason that it was not only unpalatable, but positively disagreed with them.

The Governor, and as to the *Rajah's* treatment of you there, Sir, I am sure you were at all in danger, or we believed or suspected, or feared that we were in danger, was when the Captain did not return. The *Rajah* then got into a very excited state, and he thought he would have done some harm to us, were it not for the fact that we were so well guarded.

Later, however, he has behaved to us in a kindly enough way, after his own fashion.

The Governor: And then, as to the other natives, I mean other than the *Rajah* himself—how did you get along with them?

Mr. Wright: We got on pretty fairly, Sir. Some times we were afraid they might raise some trouble for us. It was during this time that we were in the *Nisero* that we were very badly treated. They were trying to give us some trouble, but we were too strong for them. They were trying to give us some trouble, but we were too strong for them. They were trying to give us some trouble, but we were too strong for them.

The Governor: What sort of a place did he give you to live in?

Mr. Wright: We had very poor accommodation, indeed, Sir, at first.

The Governor: You were put up or accommodated in a mat-shed, or something of the kind, were you not?

Mr. Wright: Yes, Sir.

The Governor: What sort of a place was it?

Mr. Wright: It was a mat-shed, at first, that we were put up in, as you have said, Sir. That was up all the *Rajah* had something, I think, about something going to be done concerning us at home. Then the man-of-war visited the place, so far as we can understand; and after that we were put into a little better sort of a home. A good deal better, I may say. We found the accommodation there, very good. It was reasonably good. It was a good deal better than we had been having; and we were glad of it.

The Governor: There were some Chinese around how all the time, I understand, so that you could not get away?

Mr. Wright: Had you any idea in being taken there we were pretty fairly guarded, have been the worse for us. There were some of the natives, and did not know how we would have fared at their hands. We had a couple of strong lads that if we got away and were caught and brought back, we should suffer for it in some way or other. Or, he might have taken it out of those who were left behind. After the guard was

placed over us, escape was not to be thought of. We were warned that if any one tried to escape the guard had orders to fire on us.

The Governor: They were armed, the guards, with what?

Mr. Wright: They had rifles, Sir, and spears.

The Governor: You believe that any attempt to escape would have either led to your death or to your being brought back, and in all probability your being badly treated for making the attempt?

Mr. Wright: Yes, Sir.

The Governor: Was any attempt really made by any of you to get away?

Mr. Wright: Yes, Sir. Two men did try it, but they were brought back again.

The Governor: They would have the difficulty to meet of not knowing, of course, which way to go?

Mr. Wright: We all know what way, well enough, to make for the shore, but as to the roads, such as they are, we knew nothing; and, if a man did know them, he was just as frightened to follow them in case of falling

Merchant Vessels in Hongkong Harbour

**SHIPPING IN CHINA, JAPAN
PHILIPPINES, AND SIAM
WATERS**

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Treston	U. S. frigate	2,300	14	—	Captain R. N. Phyllan	Shanghai
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Villars	French corvette	2,400	15	575	Captain Virielle	Saigon
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Volla	French corvette	1,830	5	800	Captain Gigon	Poochow
Vostok	Russian gunboat	—	4	—	Commander Molchensky	Vladivostok

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